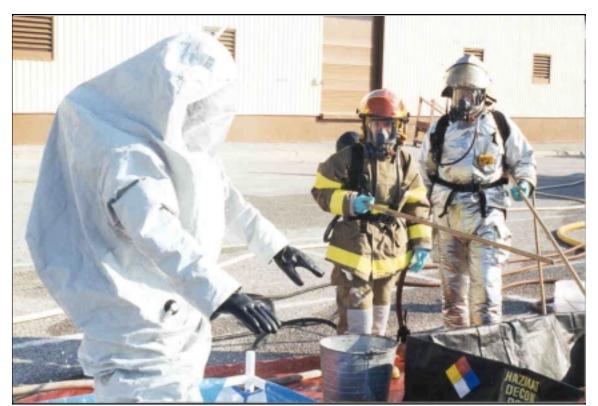


Vol. 59, No. 34 Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender* Aug. 25, 2000



#### Courtesy photo

#### Going through the decon line

Tyndall's "first responders" practice going through decontamination procedures after responding to a hazardous-material exercise recently. Training for hazardous-material emergency responders is provided through an award-winning compact disc set produced by the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency. See article below for more information.

# Tyndall converts to F-22 'Raptor'

## F-15 squadrons switch to F-22 training ops

Courtesy of the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office

The Air Force has approved converting some of Tyndall's F-15 Eagle training to the new F-22 Raptor by signing a Record of Decision Aug. 18.

The F-22 conversion, which will gradually replace 60 older F-15s over a five-year period beginning in 2003, includes construction of facilities and an increase of about 400 personnel to support training and maintenance.

At the end of the conversion, two F-22 squadrons and one F-15 squadron will support training operations.

The decision is a balanced finding that considers the needs of the Air Force, state and federal regulations and public concerns. It caps a two-year environmental analysis, known as an Environmental Impact Statement.

The new squadrons will train F-22 fighter pilots and maintenance crews. Flight patterns will remain the same, with the number of training operations and airspace use over the Gulf of Mexico increasing by 7 percent.

The Record of Decision was signed by Jimmy G. Dishner, Air Force deputy assistant secretary of installations. For copies of the decision, contact Herman Bell, 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office, 445 Suwannee Road, Suite 129, Tyndall AFB, Fla. 32403.

## AFCESA wins national-level AXIEM award

**Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Ward**Air Force Civil Engineer
Support Agency
public affairs

The Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency recently received three national-level interactive media awards for its computer-based hazardous materials training program.

The Absolute eXcellence In Electronic Media award was presented to the agency July 25 for a four-compact disc training program it developed titled *Hazardous Materials Technician Emergency Response Training*. The courseware is used to train and certify Department of Defense hazardous-materials emergency responders.

The CD set features audio and full-motion video, photographs and animation. While the

focus is on formal training, it offers a few twists such as "Jason," an animated junior chemist who keeps combining the wrong chemicals with explosive results, and a Jeopardy!-style game where students can measure their knowledge against each other or against a cartoon creature called the HazManiac. In addition to the DOD, the courseware is used by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire Arms, the FBI and other federal agencies.

"It's an impressive software package," said Chief Master Sgt. Jim Podolske, AFCESA certification program manager. "It's easy to use, it's fun, but most importantly, it's a lifesaver because it teaches the user how to safely identify, contain and control hazardous materials during an emergency."

The AXIEM award is a national electronic media award presented for creative commu-

nication in television, video, radio, film, animation, the web and interactive media. AFCESA's CD set received the top award, the Copper AXIEM, for training, interface design, graphics and logos. Of the 1,390 entries submitted this year, only 12 percent received the copper award. Other copper winners this year include: Warner Brothers, Mercedes-Benz, Popular Mechanics, Xerox and NBC.

Unlike most awards, AXIEM entries are not judged against each other. Instead, they are judged on their own merit against absolute standards established for each medium, market and category. Entries must meet or exceed those standards to win. Judges are electronic media professionals from throughout the United States.

The CD was developed for AFCESA by PowerTrain Inc., a multimedia training con-

sultant. Technical assistance and visual support was provided by OnGUARD Inc., a training and marketing company. It was produced in part through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement. CRADAs are formal agreements between federal and non-federal partners to develop technology-based projects. The non-government partner provides services, equipment and resources, and in return, receives commercial rights to the product. A civilian version of the hazardous-material response CD is available for sale to the public.

For more information, visit the OnGUARD web site at: <a href="https://www.onguard.com">www.onguard.com</a>.

Governmental agencies should have received a DOD version of the courseware when it was released last year. If additional copies are needed, e-mail requests to: <a href="mailto:jim.podolske@afcesa.af.mil">jim.podolske@afcesa.af.mil</a> or <a href="mailto:jim.podolske@afcesa.af.mil">jim.podolske@afcesa.af.mil</a>.

## Lockheed Martin delivers F-22 avionics software

NASHUA, N.H. (AFPN) — Sanders, a Lockheed Martin company, recently delivered a critical electronic warfare component for the F-22 Raptor fighter.

The company's F-22 electronic warfare team supplied the Block Three operational flight program software to the Avionics Integration Laboratory in Seattle. The team also provided upgraded hardware to AIL and Boeing's Flying Test Bed to prepare for flight certification testing.

Don Donovan, Sanders' general manager for the F-22, said the delivery supports testing required to obtain a low-rate initial production decision expected by the Pentagon later this year.

"The LRIP decision is crucial to the entire F-22 program and we are very pleased to have met this important milestone," Donovan said. "We set very high objectives for our Block Three hardware and software systems in order to ensure we meet the LRIP decision criteria."

Block Three software is a significant portion of the overall integrated avionics software, scheduled to fly onboard the Raptor in



Before Block Three operational flight program software is flight tested on an F-22 Raptor at Edwards AFB, Calif., the electronic warfare suite will be flown on Boeing's Flying Test Bed.

December at Edwards AFB, Calif. The Sanders delivery represents approximately 15 percent of the operational flight program software scheduled to fly on the next-generation fighter.

Bob Rearden, Lockheed Martin's vice president for F-22 programs, said this integrated avionics capability will be a main focus of flight testing scheduled later this year.

"The electronic warfare system has been performing extremely

well to date at the AIL and on the Flying Test Bed," Rearden said. "And Sanders' Block Three software will provide a significant increase in testing capabilities."

The Block Three delivery also included countermeasures and missile-launch detection hardware and software for the F-22. Sanders' EW suite is an integral part of the stealth fighter's advanced sensor suite that will enable Raptor pilots to achieve air dominance over any potential adversary well into the century.

## Firestone recall includes military customers

**DALLAS (AFPN)**—Bridgestone/ Firestone officials announced that through voluntary recall the manufacturer will replace free-of-charge an estimated 6.5 million ATX, ATX II and Wilderness AT all-terrain tires.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which stopped selling the problem tires even before Firestone's announcement, is now taking steps to ensure the recalled tires are completely removed from its inventory.

After contact with Bridgestone/ Firestone to clarify just how the military customer fits into the recall equation, AAFES issued the following guidelines to ensure customers take full advantage of the replacement offer with minimal inconvenience.

AAFES customers who purchased their tires elsewhere should note the exchange service will take back any eligible customer's tires that meet the Firestone recall criteria, regardless of the original purchase location

The Tyndall Autopride Car Care facility has also had inquiries regarding Firestone tires, according to Eileen Berth, Tyndall Autopride Car Care facility manager. "We have taken a lot of phone calls about concerns over the recall," she said. "Mainly, people are wanting to make sure Firestone is going to follow through with the reimbursements if they purchase another brand of tires."

Military customers at any

Autopride Car Care facility are authorized credit equal to the AAFES retail price of a recalled tire. This may be applied to a new Firestone tire of their choice or any other brand. Any difference between the credited amount and the sale price of the replacement tire or tires, will be the responsibility of the customer. If the customer selects a tire with a sale price less than that of their recalled tire, AAFES will refund the difference on the spot

and seek reimbursement from Firestone, rather than leaving it to the customer.

The replacement tires will be the same size, type, load range and tread design. Mounting and balancing will also be provided at no charge. In addition, transfer of an AAFES roadhazard warranty to any recall-replaced tires is free.

Customers not sure if their tires are subject to recall, and those who suspect they have defective tires not subject to recall, may bring them by any AAFES Autopride service facility for a free inspection and possible replacement or pro-rated exchange, if warranted.

The decision to recall the tires came after a meeting between officials of Bridgestone Corp., the Japanese owner of Firestone; Ford Motor Co. — whose best-selling Explorer is equipped with the tires — and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Overall, about 47 million of the defective tires have been sold. The ATX models have been on the market for more than a decade and the Wilderness model since 1996.

For more information, call the Tyndall AutoprideCar Care facility, 286-5826.

Customers with technical questions best addressed by the manufacturer are encouraged to call Firestone directly, (800) 465-1904.

## Tyndall NCO STEPs up

Lt. Col. G. Darryl Smith 81st Test Support Squadron commander

On Aug. 3, Staff Sgt. Ken Ramirez, 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group scheduling office NCOIC, became a technical sergeant during a special commander's call.

The 53rd Wing commander, Col. Jack J. Catton, Jr. and Chief Master Sgt. Tonez Beatty, Air Warfare Center command chief master sergeant, attended the presentation. Maj. Gen. L. D. Johnston, the AWC commander, Catton and Beatty presented the stripes to Ramirez through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

Ramirez is is responsible for coordinating the airspace and frequencies needed to support 40 deployed units that fire over 300 live air-to-air missiles annually as part of the air-to-air Weapon System Evaluation Program, also known as Combat Archer. Ramirez voluntarily took on the responsibility of the 53rd WEG Annual Missile and Target Expenditure Report to provide Headquarters United States Air Force accountability for more than \$1.5 billion in assets.

Ramirez was named the 53rd WEG and 53rd Wing Operations Resource Manager of the Year, NCO category, in 1996 and 1999. He is also the 81st Test Support Squadron safety NCO whose pro-

gram received an outstanding rating five consecutive years and directly contributed to the 53rd WEG winning the Air Combat Command Safety Office of the Year Award, Category II, for 1999. He is currently the 81st TSS booster club president and was recently selected as a participant on the U.S. Presidential Inauguration Committee.

The men and women of the 81st TSS are proud of Ramirez's accomplishments and are happy to see him rewarded for his superb efforts and contributions.

In the last 18 months, there have been two STEP promotions in the 53rd WEG and both occurred in the 81st TSS.

## President approves pay raise

# Defense funding bill contains 3.7-percent raise

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — President Clinton approved a 3.7-percent pay raise for military members when he signed the Fiscal 2001 Department of Defense Appropriations Act recently.

In addition to the pay raise, the \$288 billion bill increases DOD spending from last year by nearly \$20 billion to provide funding for pay, quality-of-life programs, readiness and weapons modernization.

For the Defense Health Program, the bill also provides full funding for a new pharmacy benefit for military retirees over the age of 65 to ensure comprehensive prescription drug coverage.

It establishes the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, which guarantees Medicare-eligible retirees and their families access to the DOD's pharmaceutical mailorder program and the option to fill prescriptions through regular retail pharmacies.

Additionally, the bill funds training, spare parts, equipment maintenance, base operations and modernization programs such as the F-22 Raptor.



## **Viewpoint**

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office at Tyndall. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the Gulf Defender is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and doublespaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129, or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the Gulf Defender to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the Panama City News Herald.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

#### Safety stats

| Category   | '00 | '99 | Trend |
|------------|-----|-----|-------|
| On duty    | 1   | 0   | +1    |
| Off duty   | 7   | 6   | +1    |
| Traffic    | 3   | 1   | +2    |
| Sports     | 3   | 5   | -2    |
| Fatalities | 1   | 0   | +1    |
| DUIs       | 12  | 7   | +5    |
|            |     |     |       |

# Commander's Corner:



Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins 325th Fighter Wing commander

As you may have noticed, **Team Tyndall** has been extremely busy this week hosting a number of visitors and one very special guest.

Since Wednesday, **Dale Zimmerman**, a 22-year-old from Junction City, Ore., has been "living his dream" at Tyndall as the Air Force winner of the **Yahoo! Fantasy Careers in Today's Military** contest.

Dale has toured almost every area of our base, experiencing firsthand everything from breakfast at Tyndall's Dining Facility, life-support training and Airborne Warning and Control System simulation to an actual F-15 flight with our very own Lt. Col. Jerry Kerby, 325th Operations Support Squadron weapons and training flight commander.

Followed by cameras, reporters and television crews, Dale's "once in a lifetime opportunity" will bring **Team Tyndall** into the homes of the American people nationwide. This contest will help millions learn about the Air Force, military service members and, in particular, Tyndall's mission — to train the world's best air superiority team.

To all the men and women of this team who made Dale's "prize" such an overwhelming success, THANK YOU! You have not only demonstrated professionalism and dedication to national service, but have also shown Dale and the rest of the country what an exciting, challenging and rewarding job we share.

Recruiting is currently a top priority throughout the armed forces. While I'm sure this contest has aided in our battle to recruit new military members, remember that we can continue to recruit each and every day through our positive actions and words.



Brig. Gen. Hodgkins

Thanks once again for making Tyndall, the Air Force and our military look so good!

Gaining support for the military is vitally important to our future mission. Along with Dale, Tyndall was visited by <u>two</u> professional staffers from the **House Armed Services Committee** Wednesday.

These visits focused on current Air Force issues and concerns such as retention and included a briefing on Tyndall's preparation for the bed-down of the F-22 "Raptor." (The Air Force just signed a Record of Decision Aug. 18 officially approving Tyndall's conversion of F-15 training operations to the F-22 — see the article on Page 1.)

Our visitors were extremely pleased with Tyndall's operation and its people. It was another great showing for **Team Tyndall** — thanks.

Now we look to the weeks ahead. We need to practice as we play.

In the middle of July, our antiterrorism Crown Silver exercise was lacking a sense of urgency, and as a result, we received a <u>Marginal</u> rating. I want to emphasize how important it is to play these exercises as if they were real, otherwise we will not be prepared to respond properly during an actual situation.

We all need to take responsibility for our roles. Exercises are a great time to review inspection criteria, dust off checklists, policies and procedures, and make sure they are all current. Take a look at the exercise and plans web page on Tyndall's web site for general information on preparing for exercises, as well as past Crown Silver performance reports.

Just a heads up — <u>Thursday</u> is the next exercise. It will be a "table-top" discussion of a

#### ●Turn to CORNER Page 6

#### **Action Line**



2nd Lt. Angela J. Ro

From left to right, Airman 1st Class Charles A. BonVillian Jr., 325th Maintenance Squadron mission storage crew member; Senior Airman Valentin Caldera, 325th MXS equipment maintenance crew member; Airman Brian A. Luther, 325th MXS jet engine mechanic; Airman 1st Class Ernest L. McMillan Jr., 325th MXS munitions operations technician and Maj. D. Bruce Coomer, 325th MXS commander, talk about the importance of the honor guard. BonVillian is already a member, and Caldera, Luther and McMillan are joining.

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers. If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For **fraud**, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the office of inspections, 283-4646. Calls concerning **energy abuse** should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

William F. Hoolghung

Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins
325th Fighter Wing

### AF needs frontline supervisors

commander

Chief Master Sgt. Lew Monroe 6th Air Refueling Wing

ith Air Refueling Wing

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE,

Fla. — Take a look around. Without even straining your eyes, you can see the most intelligent and capable enlisted force in the history of our Air Force. The young airmen enlisting in the Air Force today are head and shoulders above where we were just a short 20 years ago, but one thing still rings true. Just like us, they desire dedicated leadership.

That is where our attention turns to the most vital link in the supervisory chain — the frontline supervisor.

With people being the most precious resource in the Air Force, training, supervision and development of these people has to be the number one focus. The responsibility falls squarely on the shoulders of our staff sergeants and technical sergeants, the frontline supervisors.

As a frontline supervisor, you must be ready to step up. Realize that your every move is being watched by the most impressionable people in the Air Force — our airmen. Understand that you can tell the airmen anything you want and point them in any direction you wish, but never forget they will say and do what they see you say and do, no matter what you tell them.

If you come to work in a wrinkled uniform and boots not shined, so will your airmen. If the chief points out that you need a haircut, then your airmen probably need haircuts too.

If I haven't convinced you that the frontline supervisor is our most vital link, then chew on this parallel: our children spend an average of 35-40 hours a week with an educator we know very little about. We send our children off to school every day praying the teachers are prepared, equipped and care enough to develop our little ones.

Now, think how America has sent you her children. They spend 50-60 hours a week under your supervision. America is constantly praying that you are prepared, equipped and care enough to develop her children. You are our most vital link!

## Retention remains AF challenge

Staff Sgt. K. Fitzgerald Stewart Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Meeting the Fiscal 2000 recruiting goal is good news, but keeping those new recruits in Air Force blue is still one of the greater challenges facing the service today.

About seven of 10 airmen will make a re-enlistment decision between now and 2003. So far this fiscal year, 74 percent of the 41,400 airmen eligible to re-enlist have elected to stay with the Air Force family. The rates for Fiscal 2000 appear to be on the upswing, with July first-term cumulative rates 4 percent above this time last year.

Additionally, retention rates for second-term and career categories have remained steady so far this year. Air Force re-enlistment goals are 55 percent for first-term, 75 percent for second-term and 95 percent for career airmen. But

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scenario with no actual response. However, Sept. 13-14 will be the next big deployment/employment exercise, so get ready. Let's do it right!

Speaking of "training as we fight," consider the 'fight' on Jan. 22, 2001 — **Tyndall's Opera**tional Readiness Inspection. As I stated last week, it's time to start planning for January's inspection today! Our goal is to achieve an "Outstanding" rating from the Air Education and **Training Command Inspector** General Team — a rating that no other AETC wing has been able to achieve based on records dating back to 1994.

Finally, I have officially visited all four groups in the 325th Fighter Wing and am extremely pleased with what I've seen so far. I'm moving on to the associate units next. I have no doubt the upcoming experience will be just as positive and the people just as extraordinary!

Have a great Air Force week.

despite these positive trends, Air Force retention rates remain below goals for all three re-enlistment categories.

"We're working hard to fix the retention issues," said Lt. Col. Julie Stanley, Air Force headquarters retention policy chief. "The Air Force has established programs to better-manage operations tempo, improve compensation and retirement and enhance communication from leadership down to each and every airman so our force has a better quality of life and is well informed."

One of the initiatives to improve communication is the establishment of 78 career-assistance adviser positions throughout the Air Force. "These individuals will be the principal advisers to commanders and supervisors on retention issues," Stanley said. "Their primary responsibility is to ensure accurate information on the Air Force chief of staff's initiatives to reverse negative retention trends is passed down to the lowest level. They're also required to up-channel local problems and issues for resolution at the wing level."

Falling retention is a rela new challenge for the Air according to Stanley. Betw 1991 and 1997, first-term, term and career airmen ret rates consistently surpasse goals; however, by 1998, the Force missed retention targ three categories.

The recent increase in fir retention and leveling off i decline in re-enlistments for other two categories are en ing trends when considering thriving economy, greater nities to attend college and merable employment alteri that entice good people to Air Force, Stanley said.

## Tyndall's chapel schedu

Communion Service: 9:30 a.m. Chapel 1

General Protestant Service: 11:00 a.m. Chapel 2

Sunday school: in recess for the

Kids' Club: in recess for the summer

Catholic

Daily Mass: noon Monday through Friday, Chapel 2;

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, Chapel 2

Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday,

Chapel 2

Religious education: in re-

for the summer Chapel 1: 283-2691 Chapel 2: 283-2925

Spiritual Maintenance: 28 Other faith groups: Call

2925

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## AF continues civilian workforce shaping

**WASHINGTON** (**AFPN**) — The Air Force recently held a follow-on Civilian Workforce Shaping Summit to finalize a game plan for policy and legislative changes needed to address civilian force sustainment problems.

"Our goal is to design a strategic plan aimed at maintaining a high-quality civilian workforce through recruiting, training, development and retention management," said James Carlock, Air Force Civilian Workforce Shaping program manager.

Representatives from air staff, major commands and the Air Force Personnel Center attended the two-day summit held last month. The recommendations from the summit will improve the policies and processes involved in how the Air Force hires, trains and retains the civilian force and will support AF Vision 2020, according to Carlock.

Roger Blanchard, Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel, emphasized the urgency of addressing force-shaping issues for current and fu-

ture mission readiness and performance. He said past reductions because of the drawdown were made through a combination of loss programs, such as early retirement authorities, separation pay and limited hiring practices. Such factors were not balanced across the civilian workforce.

"The Air Force has been developing programs and legislative proposals to ensure our civilian workforce remains highly skilled," Blanchard said. "We are optimisticlegislation will soon be passed to help meet our force-shaping goals."

"Downsizing has caused some skills and experience imbalances with the civilian workforce, limiting new hires and how we fill vacancies," Carlock said. "We need the right mix of skills and new hires to accomplish our mission and we need to start now. The Air Force is facing mission and readiness problems if we don't take action."

At the first Civilian Workforce Shaping Summit in February, Air Force members were called upon to create an inte-

grated approach to attack sustainment problems. More than 50 initiatives were developed.

"Prior to implementing a strategy, we wanted feedback from our workforce on these initiatives," Carlock said. Beginning in May, four private-industry companies were benchmarked, and focus groups were held at 12 Air Force bases to validate the initiatives.

Tyndall was one of the 12 bases selected for the focus-group study, according to Sonja Crownover, 325th Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel officer. "The focus group at Tyndall included randomly selected civilian employees near retirement, new hires, prior and current interns, bargaining unit employees, union officials and management," she said.

According to Michelle Lowe-Solis, who helped conduct the focus groups and briefed at the second summit, "Several issues were consistently addressed. Those included the hiring process, payflexibility issues and diminished training and development opportunities."

"Instability arising from competitive sourcing and privatization was also a concern with focus groups," she said. The results of the focus group interviews generated the most interest among summit members.

During the July summit, participants considered the feedback from the focus-group effort to refine and prioritize force-shaping initiatives. "We prioritized initiatives according to impact and our ability to do them," Carlock said. "By incorporating focus-group results, we were able to map out an initial strategy."

Participants were able to prioritize the top 30 initiatives, based upon impact

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## **Features**

# Tyndall Chapel 'graced' with colorful face-lift

**2nd Lt. Chris Dunn** 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Bright sun, blue skies, beautiful water and sugar-white beaches make Bay County a paradise, according to the people who live here. Now, these same qualities grace Tyndall's base chapel in its three new stained-glass windows.

The chapel began work in June to replace the old stainedglass windows in the vestibule and sanctuary of the church with modern, energy-efficient windows, complete with an updated design intended to represent the Tyndall community.

Although there was nothing wrong with the artistic designs of the old windows, safety issues played a significant role in the need for replacement. According to Lt. Col. Daniel H. Nigolian, 325th Fighter Wing chaplain, the old windows were installed in 1973, and the steel casings were rusting and pulling away from the walls. "There were actually cracks between the panes you could see through, and the windows had to be repaired regularly," he said.

Structural safety is a big concern in hurricane-prone Florida. The chapel window at Homestead AFB, Fla. had a rust problem like the one in the Tyndall Chapel. The window's disrepair, when combined with hurricane-force winds delivered by Hurricane Andrew in 1992, caused an implosion of the stained glass and led to the collapse of the Homestead Chapel roof.

An unofficial examination of the chapel windows during Tyndall's 1998 Operational Readiness Inspection prompted the replacement of the stained glass. An inspector who had experience with similar windows drove past the chapel one

day and stopped the car to get a closer look at the windows, Nigolian said. After viewing the rust and other damage, he suggested the windows be replaced. Maj. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan, former 325th Fighter Wing commander, designated the renovation a priority and provided \$163,000 to fund the project.

In addition to their inherent beauty, the new windows are technologically advanced and significantly more energy

efficient. Each window section is actually three layers of glass — one colored pane sandwiched between two weather-resistant pieces of glass. A 4-inch aluminum casing holds each pane of glass in place.

Earl's Windows and Doors and Glass Art Design, a local Panama City company, created the windows based on co-owner Jane Fillingim's design. Although Fillingim said the layout was a challenge because of its size, she was able to include symbols common to all faith groups — a necessity for a base chapel. "We haven't done a window that large before but we thoroughly enjoyed the project," she said.

Fillingim met with base officials to create a bright design



Photos by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunn

The dove is one section of the new stained-glass window in the vestibule of Chapel 2, across from the Sand Dollar Inn.

that includes light beams, clouds, sky and a dove. This was the first time Fillingim has worked with the Air Force and the artist had nothing but praise for Tyndall and the chapel staff. "It was wonderful — we could not have asked for a better experience. It was an honor to do the windows for Tyndall," she said.

Nigolian has high hopes for the new windows. "We think

they will make people feel more upbeat," he said. The sanctuary will be much lighter as well, he added. The old sanctuary windows caused the room to be darker than expected because they were blue and restricted light into the chapel. The new sanctuary windows will carry a beach theme — complete with a sand dollar and heron. As for the vestibule window, "Its symbols have been universally praised for their beauty," Nigolian

The beauty of the

window is not lost on chapel worshippers. "The stained-glass windows remind me of how wonderful God is to all of us," said Col. Armand P. Grassi, Jr., 325th Logistics Group commander. "Although we all face daily challenges in our lives, the symbolism of the stained-glass windows makes me very grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me."

The vestibule window is complete and installation of the sanctuary windows is scheduled for early September. Once work is concluded, Nigolian looks forward to hearing Team Tyndall's response to the new stained glass. "We think these new windows will raise spirits even higher," he said. "The windows are an asset to the chapel and the community."



Staff Sgt. John W. Glass, Tyndall Chapel facilities manager, cleans the outside of the new stained-glass window in Chapel 2.

## Spearfishing: Tyndall's tournament 'reels' in local divers

2nd Lt. Angela J. Rogers 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

At 4:00 a.m., more than an hour before the first rays of dawn emerged on the horizon, the boat was loaded and the divers were ready to start the day.

To the west was the Tarpon, a ship that sank in 1937. The postal service once used it to deliver mail, but now it is used as a hiding place for fish. This would be the first stop of the day. At dawn, the divers donned their tanks and fins, grabbed their spearguns and plunged into the deep blue waters. The final day of the Tyndall Marina Club's 30th Annual Spearfish Tournament had begun.

The tournament took place over the course of three days: Aug. 18, Saturday and Sunday. The divers competed both as teams and individuals. The goal was to get the most fish or the largest fish in each category.

The tournament's categories are arranged by the types of fish: amberjack, barracuda, cobia, flounder, grouper, sheepshead, snapper and trigger fish, as well as spiney and shovelnose lobsters.

Trophies and plaques were awarded for the top three catches in each category, as well as the king and queen titles for the man and woman who caught the most fish. Al Johnson, a long-time competitor and Air Force retiree, admitted, "There's no money in it, just bragging rights."

In this year's tournament, John Shepard had a lot to brag about after catching the largest fish, a grouper weighing in at 58 pounds, four ounces. It was the largest grouper he had caught in 25 years of spearfishing, he said. Shepard loves the excitement of the sport and chasing after large fish. "Spearfishing is a lot like big-game hunting," he said. "You go out and you never know what you're going to find. You have to figure out where your prey's going to be, and when you get there, you have to stalk it.

"It's fighting, and there are a lot of things you need to watch out for," Shepard added. "You're thinking all the time, and it's a lot harder to shoot the big fish than people might think. If you don't shoot it well, if you don't kill it when you shoot it, then you've got to

deal with it underwater — one mad, hurt fish after you've shot it. The big fish are obviously harder to handle.'

In addition to large, panicked fish, the divers have to deal with other obstacles. Occasionally, they encounter sharks that like to lurk in popular fishing areas and steal fish from divers. On Sunday, Mike Thompson lost three of his flounder to a shark. When a fellow diver asked what kind of shark, he replied, "The kind with a big mouth and lots of teeth."

Because spearfishing is such a popular local sport, divers have areas where they like to fish, the locations of which are very carefully guarded. Shepard offers guidelines for an ideal place. "You have to get a spot that other people haven't been to, that hasn't already been raided," he said. "If you go only five miles out to the pass, there are a lot of people who are going to know about it...and consequently, there won't be much there. You have to find water that's not frequented much."

Such waters tend to be more than an hour away from shore and range from 90-110 feet deep. "We don't go any deeper than 110 feet," Shepard said. "At 130-140 feet, nitrogen is absorbed too quickly and you get almost no bottom time." Too much nitrogen in the body endangers the diver and may cause the "bends" as the diver ascends and gas expands. "Most diving is done in the 100-foot range because that is where most of the game is," Shepard added.

People have many reasons for participating in the tournament. "Everyone likes to see the fish, and we all appreciate a good catch," Johnson said.

Clint Iles, a test engineer at the Coastal Systems Station, has just one reason for participating, "Lobster," he said. Iles also happened to catch the largest lobsters during the tournament. His secret to success is "a little skill and a whole lot of luck."

The competitors participate in the tournament not only for the chance to compete, but also for the chance to catch fish. Many enjoy the camaraderie as well. "It's a good chance to see people you haven't seen all year," Johnson said. And when the day is done, they can all sit back and exchange fish stories.







Top right: Al Johnson, tournament competitor, checks out the weight of Paul Fournier's spiney lobster. Left: Mike Thompson, tournament competitor, prepares for the first dive of the morning.

Above: Lynn King, dive-club member, cleans an amberjack for Sunday's fish fry.

#### Spearfishing tournament winners

First place Category Tony Snow Amberjack Barracuda **Bob Stapleton** Vicky Bateman N/A Cobia Flounder Ronnie Young John Shepard Grouper Sheepshead Philip Nelson John Pipkin Snapper Trigger fish Mike Thompson Spiney lobster Clint Iles Shovelnose lobster Clint Iles King Clint Iles Queen D.J. Moore

#### Second place

Third place Clint Iles Al Johnson Mark Elliott Stoney Sellers N/A Chris Brumba Al Johnson John Pipkin Doug Wiggin Richard Toole D.J. Moore **Bill Gainous** Doug Wiggin Clint Iles Dick Smith John Shepard N/A Ben Heath Paul Fournier N/A N/A N/A N/A

## Air Force tests new symbol

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Some Air Force bases will soon sport the new Air Force symbol

on their entrance gates and water towers

The change represents the next phase in the service's test of its new symbol. The symbol was introduced earlier this year as part of the Air Force's effort to more effectively tell its story to the public, potential recruits and its own people, said Brig. Gen. Ronald Rand, Air Force director of public affairs.

In March, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan approved testing the symbol only on low-cost, "perishable" applications such as paper products, web sites and civilian clothing such as T-shirts and ball caps, Rand said.

"Now we're taking the next step, testing it on base infrastructure. We'll apply the symbol to gates and water towers at selected bases," he said. The test will apply only to locations approved by the chief of staff.

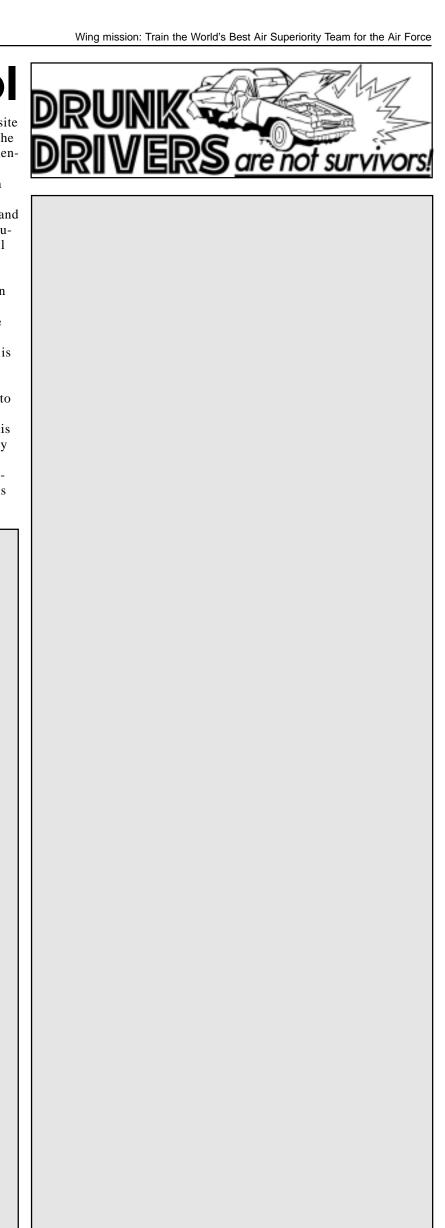
"This test will allow us to gauge recognition of the symbol in public and high-visibility situations," Rand said. "It will also give us the opportunity to learn the design and technical challenges of applying the symbol to a variety of structures."

Criteria for choosing the test locations included high-visibility, cost-effectiveness and chain-of-command approval. Additionally, officials sought signs and towers that needed painting or were good candidates for other reasons.

"In the case of the water towers, we're incorporating the symbol at bases that were already scheduled to paint their towers," Rand said. "For the base gates, we wanted to test a range of situations," he added. The process will begin with site visits by a team comprised of the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence at Brooks AFB, Texas, and Siegelgale, the firm that worked with Air Force leaders to develop the symbol and the Air Force's renewed communication strategy. The team will study the gates at the selected locations, develop appropriate designs and oversee application of the symbol to the gates.

"Our goal is to make sure we paint each water tower and change each gate in a way that is cost-effective and consistent," Rand said. He added the Air Force plans a series of studies to measure the results of the test.

"The lessons learned from this test will help us establish policy for future applications of the symbol on Air Force infrastructure, if and when the decision is made to do so."



## AF test program extends childcare hours

Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A smaller Air Force doing more with fewer people, longer duty hours and more frequent temporary assignments were some of the reasons cited by Air Force Services for establishing a program extending the number of childcare hours available to parents.

Since 1999, MacDill AFB, Fla. has been the site of a pilot program testing the use of childcare purchased by contract from home-care providers. The extended hours are for use by parents whose jobs require them to occasionally work beyond their average 50-hour-per-week childcare arrangements.

The program, which was recently extended to five other Air Force installations based on information gathered from the Air Force Community Needs Assessment survey, is designed to decrease parents' concern about how to take care of their children when they must work longer hours.

According to Marie Pippin, Tyndall Child Development Center training and curriculum specialist, Tyndall does

not have a program like this yet. "However, there are always parents on every base that could benefit from extended childcare hours," she said.

"The intent of this program is to provide support to families who need care beyond their regular childcare arrangements," said Dr. Beverly Schmalzried, Air Force Services' family member programs chief. "Most families have an arrangement that provides care during their regular working hours, but sometimes parents have to work late, work on Saturdays or go temporary duty over night, so their regular arrangements won't work. This program gives those parents a second option."

At each of the six bases — MacDill, Lackland AFB, Texas; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; Cannon AFB, N.M.; Kadena AB, Japan; and Spangdahlem AB, Germany — two providers are contracted to provide 40 hours of care. Parents, who must sign up for the program, are required to forecast the number of hours each month they expect to work overtime, whether they use the hours or not. Care may also be available for short-notice requirements. The program is administered by the

base family childcare staff.

Using appropriated funds, the Air Force has agreed to purchase additional hours from the providers, regardless of use, in order to guarantee the care will be available. Parents will be charged up to \$2 per hour, based on their regular weekly fees, to cover other costs associated with administering the program. This is about half of what special care would usually cost.

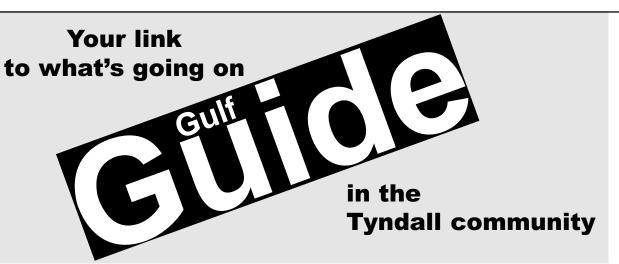
The program is a test only in the sense of working out procedures. Participation is not a right, and parents must fill out an application, meet the providers in advance and sign an agreement.

"I think this program is a good idea," Pippin said. "Like other bases, we're waiting for the results from this pilot to see if Tyndall could possibly implement an extended-hours childcare program here."

There are some foreseen concerns. We recognize that some parents might be workaholics and choose to stay at work later than they're required," Schmalzried said. "That's not the intended use of this program. Use of this service must be duty related and the work directed by a supervisor.



Barbara Gaddy, Tyndall Child Development Center technician, helps Austin Walden, son of Staff Sgt. David Walden, 1st Fighter Squadron dedicated crew chief, and Senior Airman Bobby Jo Walden, 325th Maintenance Squadron munitions specialist, discover the world outside the fence.



#### **AUGUST**

**≅ 25** 

#### **Command chief position**

An opening exists for command chief master sergeant for the 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus AFB, Miss. The report date

is Sept. 30. Chief master sergeants interested in applying can send their application package to: 14FTW/CCC, attention Chief Master Sgt. Tealy Williams, 555 Seventh St., Suite 201, Columbus AFB, Miss., 39701-1000. For more information or application package requirements, call Chief Master Sgt. Tealy Williams, DSN 742-7005.

#### Softball tournament

The 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron's Summer Slam soft-ball tournament will be today and Saturday at Tyndall's Falcon and Federal fields. Teams can be made up of military members, dependents and Department of Defense civilians and employees. For more information, call Senior Airman Jason Swats, 283-2976 or Senior Airman Joseph Martel, 283-4652.

#### **Dental-assistant program**

The 325th Dental Operations Flight is accepting applications through today for the American Red Cross-sponsored volunteer dental-assistant training program. Up to five applicants will be chosen for the six-month course scheduled to start Sept. 11. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Richard Cotterman, 283-7590.



#### **Breast-feeding class**

A breast-feeding class will be 3-5 p.m. Monday in the family advocacy conference room. For more information, call family ad-

vocacy, 283-7272.



#### **GPS** navigation course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16 navigation by global positioning course will be 7-9 p.m. Tuesday in Room 231 of the Gibson

lecture hall in Gulf Coast Community College's Student Union East building. The cost of the course is \$20 for materials. Registration and payment will start 6:30 p.m. the night of the class. For more information, call Paul Sutliff, 271-0650.

#### **Boating skills course**

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 19 boating skills and seamanship course will continue 7-9 p.m. Tuesday in the classroom next to the Coast Guard Station on the Coastal Systems Station. The course will offer knowledge of seamanship and navigation rules. There is no charge for the instruction, but a \$25 material charge is necessary for the textbook and study guide. The class will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings until Oct. 10. For more information and a course schedule with a map to the classroom location, call Don O'Neal, 769-1896.

#### Couples' workshop

The final class of the four-session couples' communication workshop will be 3-5 p.m. Tuesday in the family advocacy conference room. For more information, call family

advocacy, 283-7272.

#### Special activities coffee

The Officers' Wives Club's annual special activities coffee will be 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Tyndall Officers' Club. Everyone is encouraged to attend and meet representatives from the Bay Arts Alliance, Florida State University, Panama City Music Association and the Visual Arts Center. On-base groups such as natural resources, Pelican Point Golf Course, the skills development center and TRICARE will also present information on their programs. For more information, call Carole Funke, 271-4888 or Diane Mason, 784-7855.



#### **Torrejon reunion**

The seventh reunion of all units from Torrejon Air Base, Spain, will be Thursday-Sept. 3 in Mount Laurel, N.J. For more information, con-

tact Burnethel Sanford, P.O. Box 3492, Riverside, Calif., 92519.

#### **SEPTEMBER**



#### **Commissary closure**

The commissary will be closed Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day. It will re-open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 5.



#### Pilot and navigator training

The next undergraduate flying training selection board will meet Oct. 24 at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas. The

board will review applications for both pilot and navigator training. Completed applications must be postmarked by Sept. 8 and mailed to: HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C St. West, Suite 31, Randolph AFB, Texas, 78150-4733. For more information on application procedures, call personnel relocations, 283-2244.



#### Parish picnic

A Protestant parish picnic and combined worship service will be 10 a.m. Sept. 10 at Heritage Park. The 9:30 and 11 a.m. services will not take

place on this date.



#### NCO Association meeting

A NCO Association meeting will be 11:30 a.m. Sept. 13 at the NCO Academy. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett,

283-8734.



#### Vigil rur

A 24-hour vigil run will be 4:15 p.m. Sept. 14 in flag park to kick off Tyndall's observance of Missing in Action and Prisoner of War Recog-

nition Day Sept. 15.



#### **MIA/POW Day**

Missing in Action and Prisoner of War Recognition Day will be Sept. 15. A luncheon will be held at noon in the NCO club; a memorial

service will be 3:30 p.m. in Chapel 1 and a retreat ceremony will be 4 p.m. in Tyndall's Flag Park.

#### **NOTES**

#### **Travel vouchers**

All travel vouchers should be filed within two to three days after returning from a temporary tour of duty. End-of-year money may be tied up in TDY funds if individuals fail to file their claims in a timely manner.

#### **RETIREE NEWS**

#### Staying informed

It is essential retirees stay informed about pending legislation or policy changes that have a direct impact on issues such as health care, the Survivor Benefit Plan and veterans' benefits.

If your address is correct with Defense Finance and Accounting Service, your parent service should send you periodical updates such as "Afterburner," "Shift Colors" or "Army Echoes." Only the DFAS can change correspondence addresses.

Another good source of information is military organizations, such as the Air Force Association, the Retired Officers' Association, the Air Force Sergeants' Association and the NCO Association. Each has a periodic publication that contains the latest legislative proposals. If you do not have access to these publications, stop by the retiree activities office.

It is more effective to be proactive rather than reactive when there is a loss of, or change in a particular benefit. By staying informed and taking proper action, such as registering to vote, discussing the issues with elected representatives and going to the polls on election day, benefits have a better chance of surviving in the current political climate.

#### YARD SALES

The following yard sale is scheduled for Saturday: 3155-B Tiger St. All yard sales are held between 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### **BASE THEATER**

Today: "Chicken Run" (G, animated, 83 min.)

**Saturday:** "The Kidd" (PG, mild language, 104 min.) **Sunday:** "The Kidd"

**Thursday:** "The In Crowd" (PG-13, violence, sexuality, language and drug content, 108 min.)

#### BERG LILES DINING FACILITY

#### Today

Lunch: baked fish with garlic butter, barbecue chicken Dinner: baked tuna and noodles, pork schnitzel

#### Saturday

Lunch: roasted turkey, ground beef cordon bleu Dinner: herbed baked chicken, southern-fried catfish fillets

#### Sunday

Lunch: chicken Parmesan, grilled pork chops Dinner: veal paprika steaks, lemon-baked fish

#### Monday

Lunch: beef pot pie with biscuit topping, chicken breast with orange glaze

Dinner: Cajun meat loaf, cheese manicotti

#### Tuesday

Lunch: herbed baked fish, beef porcupines Dinner: grilled ham steak, chili macaroni

#### Wednesday

Lunch: pork adobo, Mexican baked chicken Dinner: fish and chips, baked Italian sausage

#### Thursday

Lunch: hot and spicy chicken, roasted pork loin Dinner: pork chow mein, lemon-herbed chicken

Menus are subject to change.

#### ●SHAPING from Page 7

and ability to implement, officials said. One of the top initiatives in the area of accession planning is to continue pursuing more flexible hiring authority with modifications for geographic recruitment through legislative change.

Another initiative is to develop a bottom-upaccession, sustainment and separation model to identify future mission skills requirements.

To better assess recruitment for the civilian force, personnel officials are developing surveys that will find out why applicants accept, or decline, positions with the Air Force. Along these lines, they will administer exit surveys to employees who elect to leave the Air Force. Continued use of such surveys will assist officials in identifying needed changes to the Air Force's civilian recruiting and retention efforts.

Officials said the next step is to assign initiatives to Air Force headquarters action officers for development and implementation. As an added measure, private-industry leaders and academia will give the initiatives an "out-of-thebox" look at a symposium to be held by the undersecretary of the Air Force.

"This look will add value because it will yield feedback on our initiatives as well as industry best practices," Lowe-Solis said.

Results of the summit, focus groups and symposium will be used by senior Air Force leaders to make the final decision on recommended initiatives to pursue for legislative and policy changes.

## **Spotlight**



2nd Lt. Chris Dun

#### Airman 1st Class David W. Lees

**Squadron:** 325th Communications Squadron **Job title:** Ground radio communications apprentice

**Years at Tyndall:** One year **Hometown:** Bootstown, Ohio

Why did you join the Air Force: To gain experience I could not get

anywhere else.

Most exciting facet of your job: The fact that I learn something new

every day and also the great people I work with.

**Short term goals:** To do well in my career development course. **Long term goals:** To have a successful career in the Air Force.

Favorite book: "Bible"

Favorite movie: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"

**Hobbies and off-duty activities:** Spending time with my wife, church

activities and riding my wave runner.

## **Sports and fitness**

## Hospital officials discuss sports bars, nutritional supplements

Maj. Craig A. Olson 60th Medical Group nutritional medicine flight

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) — Like many Americans, Air Force members are constantly on the go and constantly trying to stay in shape. It's no wonder the market for nutritional supplements, including sports bars, has skyrocketed in recent years. This high demand breeds competition among businesses looking for new ways to get their products

the nutritional-supplement industry a very confusing arena. Air Force personnel have to be especially careful when shopping for nutritional supplements because some products contain hemp seed oil.

Ingestion of hemp seed oil is against Air Force policy because it may lead to a positive drugtest result for marijuana.

Office of the Surgeon General chief of operational medicine. This is an important clarification because all products made with hemp may contain the same substances found in marijuana.

From a botanical standpoint, hemp and marijuana are the same plant species cannabis sativa.

The different parts of the plant psychoactive substances, the

seeds are sold commercially for use as birdseed, as ingredients in commercially prepared foods and even for cooking at home.

Hemp seeds don't contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the euphoria-producing active ingredient in marijuana. So why the concern? Hemp seeds can pick up the chemical after coming into contact with leaves and stems during processing. Products that contain hemp seed oil or hemp seeds, like the "Original Organic Hemp Seed Bar," manufactured by Nutiva, are off limits for some Air

Northrup said, "due to the potential



#### ●BARS from Page 15

of THC ingestion, this product is off limits for all aircrew, special duty, and PRP (Personnel Reliability Program) personnel per AFI (Air Force Instruction) 48-123 (Medical Examination and Standards) and AFI 36-2104 (Nuclear Weapons PRP). All other Air Force members should seriously weigh the use of products that have known THC contaminants, against the legal ramifications of a positive urine drug screen."

Why would anyone eat hemp seeds or hemp seed oil? According to Capt. Deborah Carlton, David Grant Medical Center chief of clinical dietetics element at Travis AFB, the answer is simple. She said, "Hemp products are marketed by manufacturers as being a good source of essential fatty acids and protein." She went on to describe how informed consumers know that a well-balanced diet will meet their needs for protein, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals without the use of supplements.

For more information about dietary herbs and supplements, visit the Brooks AFB, Texas, web site, Operational Alternative and Complimentary Medicine at: www.brooks.af.mil.

#### Final intramural softball standings

#### Men's Federal league

| Team      | Wins | Losses |
|-----------|------|--------|
| 325 LSS   | 21   | 3      |
| AFCESA    | 19   | 5      |
| RHS       | 17   | 6      |
| 325 CES   | 16   | 7      |
| 325 SVS   | 14   | 8      |
| TW        | 12   | 10     |
| CONS      | 11   | 11     |
| 53 WEG    | 9    | 13     |
| CONR      | 7    | 15     |
| 83 FWS 2  | 5    | 17     |
| SEADS 2   | 3    | 18     |
| 325 TRS 2 | 0    | 21     |
|           |      |        |

| Men's Falcon league |      |        |  |
|---------------------|------|--------|--|
| Team                | Wins | Losses |  |
| 325 OSS             | 18   | 4      |  |
| 325 SFS             | 16   | 4      |  |
| 1 FS                | 17   | 5      |  |
| 325 MSS             | 14   | 6      |  |
| SEADS 1             | 14   | 7      |  |
| 325 TRS 1           | 13   | 9      |  |
| 325 MDG             | 12   | 9      |  |
| 325 COMM            | 12   | 11     |  |
| 325 MXS 1           | 10   | 11     |  |
| 95 FS               | 4    | 19     |  |
| 83 FWS 1            | 1    | 20     |  |

#### Women's Eagle league

| Team       | Wins | Losses |
|------------|------|--------|
| 325 OPS GP | 6    | 1      |
| NCOA       | 5    | 3      |
| 325 MDG    | 4    | 3      |
| 325 COM    | 0    | 8      |
|            |      |        |



#### Women's softball base champs

The 325th Medical Group women's softball team, from left to right: front row, Esther Crider; Amber Kincaid; Tiffany Netterville; Becky Nicastro; Nick Nicastro, assistant coach; and Jessica Nicastro. Back row, Ricky Adair, 325th MDG superintendent; Tracie Wumer; Sharron Moore; Daryl Poe, coach; Carla Kelly; RayLynn Spikes; Stacy Enia and Maribel Verry. Players not pictured are: Joan Elliott; Joyce Germany; Amanda Moore and Stephanie Davis.



